



WEEK 6: CELEBRATION

VIDEO:

This video will introduce the concept of celebration, tying into our DEPLOY series as well as setting the stage for the story from Nehemiah.

STORY:

Read the story of Nehemiah 8:1-18. Here is some background information to read before studying the text:

- Nehemiah 6:15 says that the work on the wall was completed in fifty-two days. Following the work, the people of Israel gathered together to celebrate and to hear Ezra the priest read from God's Law.
- Ezra read from about 7:00 in the morning to noon. The most amazing thing is that the people stood the entire time to hear the words of Scripture. Upon hearing God's Word, however, the people began to weep because they had fallen short of God's commands.
- When he saw this, Nehemiah commanded the people to celebrate instead. The day was a holy one, and Nehemiah expected it to be joyous. The walls had been rebuilt! The Law was being preached again! The Israelites had much to celebrate.
- For seven joy-filled days the people worshiped God, celebrating His goodness to them. As Nehemiah commanded them: "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

QUESTIONS:

1. Is it important to celebrate our victories? Why or why not?
2. As we work towards our vision, what kind of milestones will we have to celebrate? How should we celebrate these achievements?
3. What are some things in your life worth celebrating now? How can you celebrate and thank God for those things as a group?

Close with a time of prayer. Ask for requests and spend time praising God for what He's already done. Pray that He would continue to bless us on our mission.



Notes

